



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6200 Jefferson NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

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## **News Release**

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Contact: Barbara Garrett, public affairs specialist  
(505)761-4406

### **“Lovin’ Your Ranchette” Urged by Conservation Agency**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The notion of a place in the country away from the hustle and bustle of the city, where the kids can grow up enjoying a clean, rural lifestyle is an admirable goal. But what happens when you realize your ranchette is too big to mow and too small to plow? The creators of a new series of conservation booklets are out to show that caring about the land can come in small packages as well as wide open spaces.

“Those who care about the environment have been concerned about maintaining quality agricultural land for decades,” said Dennis Alexander, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) state conservationist. “We believe there is a need to bring conservation to the small acreage landowners and assist the truck farm or horse pasture they dreamed of when they moved to the country – and in the process preserve and even enhance the environmental quality in many of our rural areas in New Mexico.”

The first issue of the “Lovin’ Your Ranchette” series, *Small Acreage Grazing*, is being released this week. The series by NRCS is designed to educate owners of small, rural properties about the conservation choices and productivity options through conservation planning that may be available to them on their small acreage. Throughout the release of this series, NRCS is offering information online and at NRCS offices about conservation planning and land management practices that can work on that small ranchette, orchard, herb farm, or other similar enterprise.

“Small acreages have the same conservation needs as larger rural properties. This ‘how-to’ publication provides conservation tips to these rural residents,” Alexander said. “There is water and wind erosion to be prevented, watersheds to be protected, and the vision of those private landowners to be realized. Soil and water conservation districts, NRCS, and many other partnering organizations and agencies can give these landowners a fresh look, and help them make sound land management decisions that benefit their family, community, environment, and bottom line.”

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency charged with bringing conservation to private land. Because it works with private landowners, all relationships with the private landowners are entirely voluntary.

Anyone interested in the *Small Acreage Grazing* issue of the “Lovin’ Your Ranchette” series can access this document at [www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov)

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